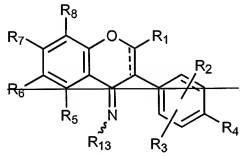
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

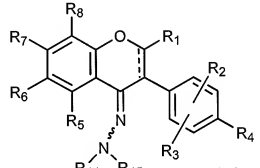
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

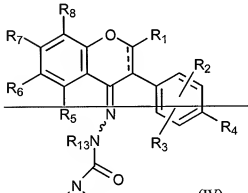
2. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to claim 1, depicted by one~~ of ~~the general~~ formulae (III) or (VIII):



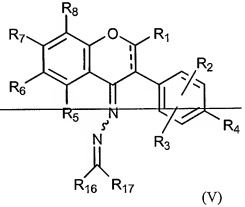
(II)



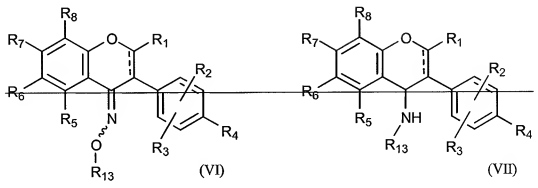
(III)

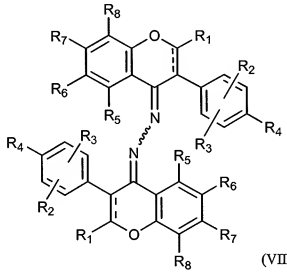


(IV)



(V)





wherein

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, OR_9, $OC(O)R_9$, $OS(O)R_9$, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, thiol, alkylthio, bromo, chloro or fluoro,

R_9 is alkyl, fluoroalkyl or arylalkyl,

~~R_{13},~~ R_{14} and R_{15} are independently hydrogen, amino, cyano, thiol, nitro, or optionally substituted alkyl, haloalkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl or alkylaryl, or the substituents R_{14} and R_{15} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted cyclic heteroalkyl or heteroaromatic structure,

~~R_{16} and R_{17} are independently hydrogen, amino, cyano, thiol, nitro or optionally substituted alkyl, haloalkyl, acyl, aryl, arylalkyl or alkylaryl, or the substituents R_{16} and R_{17} taken together~~

~~with the carbon atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted isoflavonoid ring system,~~ and

the drawing "---" represents either a single bond or a double bond,

which compounds include pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

with the proviso that the following compounds

2,3-Dihydro-2,3-diphenyl-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one hydrazone

2'-Hydroxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

7-Methoxy-isoflavanone phenylhydrazone

5,7-Dimethoxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

Isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

6-Hydroxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

7-Hydroxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

Isoflavanone semicarbazone

7-Methoxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

7-Hydroxy-4'-methoxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

5,7-Dimethoxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

6-Methoxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

4',5,7-trimethoxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

7-Methoxy-2-methyl-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

2-(Hydroxymethyl)-7-methoxy-isoflavanone (2,4-dinitrophenyl)hydrazone

and hydrochloride salts thereof are specifically excluded.

3. (currently amended): A compound according to claim 12, wherein

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2, R_3, R_5, R_6 and R_8 are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, OR_9, $OC(O)R_9$, alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl,

R_4 and R_7 are independently hydroxy, OR_9 or $OC(O)R_9$,

R_9 is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl or trifluoromethyl, and

~~R_{13},~~ R_{14} and R_{15} are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl or optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl or benzyl, or the substituents R_{14} and R_{15} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted cyclic heteroalkyl or heteroaromatic structure,

which compounds include pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof~~,~~

~~R_{16} and R_{17} are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl or optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl or benzyl, or the substituents R_{16} and R_{17} taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted isoflavonoid ring system, and~~

~~the drawing "---" represents either a single bond or a double bond~~.

4. (currently amended): A compound according to claim 2~~3~~, wherein

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2, R_3, R_5, R_6 and R_8 are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, OR_9, $OC(O)R_9$ or methyl,

R_4 and R_7 are independently hydroxy, OR_9 or $OC(O)R_9$,

R_9 is methyl,

~~R_{13} is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, chlorophenyl, nitrophenyl, toluyl, naphthyl, benzyl, chlorobenzyl, nitrobenzyl or methylbenzyl,~~

R_{14} is hydrogen and R_{15} is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, chlorophenyl, nitrophenyl, toluyl, naphthyl, benzyl, chlorobenzyl, nitrobenzyl or methylbenzyl, or the substituents R_{14} and R_{15} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted cyclic heteroalkyl or heteroaromatic structure,

~~R_{16} and R_{17} are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, chlorophenyl, nitrophenyl, toluyl, naphthyl, benzyl, chlorobenzyl, nitrobenzyl or methylbenzyl, or the substituents R_{16} and R_{17} taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted isoflavonoid ring system,~~ and

the drawing "---" represents a single bond,

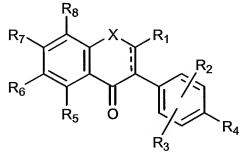
which compounds include pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. (currently amended): A compound according to claim 3~~4~~ selected from compounds (1) -

(10)~~(14)~~:

4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (phenyl)hydrazone (1)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-nitrophenyl)hydrazone (2)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-methylphenyl)hydrazone (3)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (benzyl)hydrazone (4)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4',7-dihydroxyisoflavanone)hydrazone (5)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (2-chlorophenyl)hydrazone (6)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (3-chlorophenyl)hydrazone (7)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-chlorophenyl)hydrazone (8)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (2-pyridyl)hydrazone (9)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-cyanophenyl)hydrazone (10)
~~4',7-Dihydroxy-4-methylimino-isoflavan (11)~~
~~4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone oxime (12)~~
~~4-Amino-3',4'-dimethoxy-7-hydroxy-8-methylisoflavan (13)~~
~~N-[3',4'-dimethoxy-7-hydroxy-8-methyl-4-chromanyl)-acetamide (14)~~
which compounds include pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising the step of reacting the 4-keto group of a compound of the formula (X):



(X)

wherein

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and X are as defined in claim 1, and

the drawing "---" represents either a single bond or a double bond,

with a hydrazine ~~an~~ aminating agent.

7. (currently amended): A method for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of a disease or disorder which method includes the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more compounds of formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof to a subject~~,~~
~~with the proviso that the compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of~~
~~3,4-Dihydro-3-phenyl-2H-1-benzopyran-4-amine~~
~~N-(3,4-Dihydro-3-phenyl-2H-1-benzopyran-4-yl)-α-phenyl-benzeneacetamide, and N-[-3,4-Dihydro-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H-1-benzopyran-4-yl]-α-phenyl-benzeneacetamide are disclaimed for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of atherosclerosis~~.

8. (currently amended): A method for the treatment, prevention or amelioration of diseases associated with aberrant cell survival, aberrant cell proliferation, abnormal cellular migration, abnormal angiogenesis, abnormal estrogen/androgen balance, dysfunctional or abnormal steroid genesis, degeneration including degenerative changes within blood vessel walls, inflammation, and immunological imbalance, which comprises administering to a subject one or more compounds of the formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier and/or excipient~~, with the proviso that the compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of~~

~~3,4-Dihydro-3-phenyl-2H-1-benzopyran-4-amine~~
~~N-(3,4-Dihydro-3-phenyl-2H-1-benzopyran-4-yl)-α-phenyl-benzeneacetamide, and~~
~~N-[3,4-Dihydro-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H-1-benzopyran-4-yl]-α-phenyl-benzeneacetamide are disclaimed for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of atherosclerosis~~.

9. (currently amended): A method of inducing apoptosis in cells expressing abnormal prosurvival phenotype which comprises contacting said cells with one or more compounds of the formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier or excipient.

10. (currently amended): A method for inhibiting migration of cells having an abnormal cellular

migration phenotype which comprises contacting said cells with a compound of the formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier or excipient.

11. (currently amended): A method for inhibiting angiogenesis in tissue expressing aberrant angiogenic phenotype which comprises contacting said tissue with a compound of the formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof optionally in association with a carrier or excipient~~,~~

~~with the proviso that the compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of 3,4 Dihydro 3 phenyl 2H 1 benzopyran 4 amine N (3,4 Dihydro 3 phenyl 2H 1 benzopyran 4 yl) α phenyl benzeneacetamide, and N [3,4 Dihydro 3 (4 hydroxyphenyl) 2H 1 benzopyran 4 yl] α phenyl benzeneacetamide are disclaimed for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of atherosclerosis~~.

12. (currently amended): A method for the treatment, prevention or amelioration of cancer in a mammal which method comprises the step of bringing a compound of formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof into contact with cancerous tissue in a mammal that is suffering from a tumour, such that neoplastic development in said cancerous tissue is retarded or arrested.

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended): An agent for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of a disease or disorder, which agent comprises one or more compounds of formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof~~,~~

~~with the proviso that the compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of 3,4 Dihydro 3 phenyl 2H 1 benzopyran 4 amine N (3,4 Dihydro 3 phenyl 2H 1 benzopyran 4 yl) α phenyl benzeneacetamide, and N [3,4 Dihydro 3 (4 hydroxyphenyl) 2H 1 benzopyran 4 yl] α phenyl benzeneacetamide are~~

~~disclaimed for the treatment, prophylaxis or amelioration of atherosclerosis~~.

16. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises one or more compounds of formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof in association with one or more pharmaceutical carriers, excipients, auxiliaries and/or diluents~~, with the proviso that the compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of 3,4-Dihydro-3-phenyl-2H-1-benzopyran-4-amine N-(3,4-Dihydro-3-phenyl-2H-1-benzopyran-4-yl)-α-phenyl-benzeneacetamide, and N-[3,4-Dihydro-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2H-1-benzopyran-4-yl]-α-phenyl-benzeneacetamide are disclaimed~~.

17. (currently amended): A drink or food-stuff, which contains one or more compounds of formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

18. (currently amended): A compound of formula (III) or (VIII)~~(I)~~ as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as herein described with reference to the Examples and/or accompanying drawings.

19. (new) A compound selected from:
4',7-Dihydroxy-4-methylimino-isoflavan (11)
4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone oxime (12)
4-Amino-3',4'-dimethoxy-7-hydroxy-8-methylisoflavan (13)
N-[3',4'-dimethoxy-7-hydroxy-8-methyl-4-chromanyl)-acetamide (14)
which compounds include pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.